

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 806

By Roberts

A RESOLUTION to honor the Lipscomb Bisons on winning the 2018 Atlantic Sun Conference Championship and making the school's first appearance in the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to recognize a team of remarkable young men who selflessly united behind their strengths to attain the very pinnacle of collegiate basketball; and

WHEREAS, the members of the 2017-2018 Lipscomb University men's basketball team elevated themselves to elite status in college basketball by posting an overall record of 23-10 and winning the school's first ever Atlantic Sun Conference (A-Sun) Championship; and

WHEREAS, the conference championship earned the Bisons the first National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Tournament berth in school history, generating great excitement in the Lipscomb community and throughout Nashville; and

WHEREAS, during the regular season, Lipscomb bested arch nemesis and crosstown rival Belmont twice in The Battle of the Boulevard and defeated A-Sun regular-season champions Florida Gulf Coast University; and

WHEREAS, in the A-Sun Championship, Lipscomb emerged victorious over Stetson and then conquered Jacksonville to face No. 1 seed Florida Gulf Coast in the finals; and

WHEREAS, after establishing a 32-point lead, the Bisons persevered through a fierce second-half comeback by their opponents to win the A-Sun championship and punch their ticket to the Big Dance, where they faced off against defending champions North Carolina in the first round; and

WHEREAS, this magical season was made possible by the leadership, acumen, and instruction of Coach Casey Alexander, formerly an All-Conference point guard for Belmont who

made four NCAA appearances as a player and served as an assistant coach for sixteen years under Rick Byrd before accepting the challenge to restore Lipscomb to its rightful place among basketball's royalty; and

WHEREAS, the 2017-2018 Bisons are Garrison Mathews, Rob Marberry, Kenny Cooper, Matt Rose, Michael Buckland, Eli Pepper, Aaron Korn, Andrew Fleming, George Brammeier, Greg Jones, John Matt Merritt, Asa Duvall, Nathan Moran, Ahsan Asadullah, and Zach Flener; and

WHEREAS, as we reflect upon the Bisons' historic season, we naturally recall the enduring legacy of the late Don Meyer, Lipscomb's men's basketball coach from 1975-1999, who posted 923 career wins and led his charges to twelve thirty-win seasons, three NAIA Final Fours, and the 1986 NAIA National Championship; and

WHEREAS, an innovative, yet detail-oriented, coach, Don Meyer loved collaborating with other basketball minds, be it Bob Knight or a seventh-grade coach; and

WHEREAS, an old-school mentor, Don Meyer believed in preparing his players for the real world and imparted life lessons to his players in addition to his vast knowledge of basketball; and

WHEREAS, the Lipscomb Bisons made history in the basketball world this season, and they should be commended as they hoist their A-Sun Championship banner; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the Lipscomb Bisons on winning the 2018 Atlantic Sun Conference Championship, congratulate the coaches and players on making the school's first appearance in the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship, and extend to them our best wishes for much continued success next season.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.